

## **Orangeburg County**

### **1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- Where do students who do not go to college go? What do they do? Where do they work?
- Become an attractive community (less crime, quality education)

### **2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- Matter of attention and focus
- Educate community on need to help all children
- Change attitude and community goals – focus
- Quality teachers, leaders, and educators can overcome issues of poverty, difficulty in recruiting - state needs to differentiate salary between districts that are critical needs
- Establish professional schools to specifically designate work in rural, high poverty schools
- NCLB and Accountability & Equity law suit will focus spotlight on issues of neglect to poor districts and counties
- Rep. Hunter questions if Legislature is meeting its obligation and promise for technical assistance
- Provide equal access

#### **Strengths:**

- Safer schools result of Community of Character program implemented in Orangeburg County

#### **Challenges:**

- Concern with increased class size – 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Reeducate parents on how to maintain level of living and move on
- Parenting issues - knowledge for better parenting
- Best and Brightest leaving communities/ State
- Parents define education achievement by how child does in school
- Breaking cycle of working poorly
- Large percent of single parent family income- affects how children see themselves, opportunities of children, exposure to things tested on
- Need lucrative incentives to recruit quality teachers for long periods of time
- Digital divide

### **3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

- Character education program countywide with support from private sector

### **4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**

- (not listed)